

STUDENT ASSESSMENT NEWS

[Archived Student Assessment News](#)

September 17, 2014

Connecticut State Department Of Education

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SMARTER BALANCED NEWS

New Information Posted to the Smarter Balanced Web site

New information is available on the [Teacher page](#) of the Smarter Balanced Web site. Videos providing “live tours” of how to log into the Digital Library, browse for resources, and utilize the Digital Library for collaboration purposes are available. There are also three presentations available under “Help Topic Presentations” that were developed to assist educators in acclimating to the Digital Library interface. An updated version of the [Teacher Factsheet](#) is also available under the “For More Information” section.

Updated Technology Strategy Framework

An updated version of the *Technology Strategy Framework and Testing Device Requirements* is available at www.smarterbalanced.org/smarter-balanced-assessments/technology/. “Revision History” to the document can be located on the page 25.

Smarter Balanced Portal

On Saturday, September 20, 2014, American Institutes for Research (AIR) will be moving the Smarter Balanced Portal and the Practice/Training test to new servers. There will be no downtime during the transition, and the URL for the two sites will not change. If your district maintains a list of allowable IP addresses, please consider the following information:

System	URL	Current IP Address	New IP Address
Smarter Balanced Portal	http://sbac.portal.airast.org	108.171.168.180	184.106.55.81
TA and Student Practice and Training Test Sites	https://sbacpt.tds.airast.org	69.20.121.89	173.203.13.47

reminder

Online Panel for Achievement Level Setting: Registration Extended to September 26

K-12 educators, post-secondary educators, school administrators, parents, and community/business leaders are invited to participate in the Online Panel to recommend achievement levels for the Smarter Balanced assessments in English language arts/literacy and mathematics. By participating in the Online Panel, participants will recommend an achievement level score that demonstrates how much students should know or be able to do in order to meet the grade-level standards and to be on track for college and career readiness.

Participants will have the opportunity to review and analyze test items and structure and recommend an achievement level score for proficiency in one grade level and subject. This opportunity will allow a large group of participants to help establish consistent measures of progress for the Smarter Balanced interim and summative assessments.

The Online Panel to Recommend Achievement Levels will occur during October 6–17, 2014. It will take participants up to three hours to complete the orientation process, review test questions, and recommend a score. Each participant will have two days to complete the entire process.

Visit the Smarter Balanced website to [register and learn more](#). Registration closes on September 26, 2014.



Educators can shape the future of assessments. Make your voice heard on Smarter Balanced achievement level scores.

- Review actual test items.
- Recommend proficiency scores.
- Help establish consistent measures of student progress.

REGISTER NOW!
Online Panel: October 6-17, 2014

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Assessment Suite Workshops

The Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) in conjunction with the RESC Alliance will be offering a series of workshops to further familiarize educators with the Smarter Balanced Assessment System. Titles of the first two workshops are: *Using the Digital Library to Support Teaching & Learning* and *Connecting the Claims to Classroom Instruction*. To register for these opportunities and learn the latest information about the Smarter Balanced Assessment System, visit http://ctcorestandards.org/?page_id=1955.

Vendor Solicitation

It has come to CSDE's attention that districts have received e-mails from unauthorized vendors who are referencing "Smarter Balanced" or "College and Career Ready" testing. To date, we are aware of correspondences from Wowzers, Sokikom, and Data Recognition Corporation. Vendors who have a contract with Smarter Balanced have been advised not to contact districts directly for any recruitment purposes. All Smarter Balanced related recruitment requests will come directly from the Assessment Office at CSDE.

In addition, districts have reported receiving an e-mail from ViewPlus Technologies indicating that the ViewPlus Max Embosser is the only embosser approved for Smarter Balanced Testing. Smarter Balanced does not approve assistive devices. Connecticut has published [requirements](#), and local administrators must be sure that their technology meets these requirements.

